

# Eye Safety At Work

## Is Everyone's Business.



[www.healthyvision2010.org](http://www.healthyvision2010.org)

Each day, about 2,000 U.S. workers receive medical treatment for work-related eye injuries. Most of these injuries can be prevented with the use of proper protective eyewear and safety measures.

Eye injuries can be costly. For the injured workers, eye injuries may impact their ability to earn a living and may significantly decrease their quality of life. For your business, eye injuries may increase insurance premiums, lower productivity, and decrease employee morale.

## Make Eye Safety Your Business.

May is Healthy Vision Month. We invite you to join the [National Eye Institute](http://www.nei.nih.gov) (NEI), the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh) (NIOSH), and the [National Safety Council](http://www.nsc.org) (NSC) to promote workplace eye safety. By educating your employees about eye safety and the importance of using protective eyewear, you can help reduce eye injuries, lost work days, emergency room visits, and absenteeism, and increase employee safety and morale.

There are several steps you can take to help reduce the risk of workplace eye injuries:

- Make the work environment as safe as possible. Keep bystanders out of work areas and/or behind protective barriers. Provide emergency sterile eyewash solutions and stations near hazards, and post instructions about what to do and what not to do for particular injuries.
- Require all employees in hazardous situations to wear appropriate protective eyewear. Protective eyewear such as safety glasses with side shields, goggles, face shields, and/or welding helmets can protect employees from the hazards of flying fragments, large chips, hot sparks, optical radiation, splashes from molten metals, objects, particles, and glare. Encourage your employees to keep protective eyewear in good condition and be sure it fits properly so that it is comfortable and stays in place.
- Make eye safety a continuing priority. Establish procedures for using protective eyewear in your workplace and continually reinforce these procedures through employee education programs and workshops.
- Use Healthy Vision Month materials. Information is available to assist you in promoting an eye safe work environment year round, because promoting eye safety should be a daily practice.

Please visit the Healthy Vision Month Website at [www.healthyvision2010.org/hvm/](http://www.healthyvision2010.org/hvm/) for additional information and resources to promote eye safety in your workplace.

**Thank you for your efforts and best wishes for a successful Healthy Vision Month!**

